MAR 24 1980

A3275-2

Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 15 totaled an estimated 18.9 billion ton-miles, 6.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 190 billion ton-miles, 11.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 15 totaled 459,663 cars, 2.8 percent below 1979, but 4.2 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.8 percent in the West, but down 7.4 percent in the East, and 3.0 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 19 of the 21 commodity groups declined. Only grain loadings, which were up 8,268 cars, or 35.2 percent and coal, up 7,317 cars, or 7.0 percent, posted increases. Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 8 totaled 35,631 cars, down 7.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 65,397 trailers and/or containers, 5.5 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 10 weeks of the year was 332,717 cars, 0.8 percent higher than last year, and 602,493 trailers and/or containers, up 3.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/15/80.

	Loadings in Week ended March 15, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,767	I	8,268	35.2	I	2,029	6.8
Other farm products	3,786	D	304	7.4	D	88	2.3
Metallic ores	24,531	D	2,740	10.0	D	314	1.3
Coal	111,216	I	7,317	7.0	I	11,090	11.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,677	D	1,559	10.2	I	1,766	14.8
Nonmetallic minerals	14,269	D	384	2.6	I	626	4.6
Grain mill products	17,972	D	111	0.6	I	9	0.1
Food and kindred products	19,180	D	43	0.2	I	4	0.0
Primary forest products	20,141	D	1,869	8.5	I	1,082	5.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,333	D	1,710	14.2	I	123	1.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,198	D	48	0.2	D	403	1.9
Chemicals and allied products	30,465	D	1,928	6.0	I	1,146	3.9
Petroleum products	6,323	D	707	10.1	I	250	4.1
Stone, clay and glass products	16,283	D	2,245	12.1	I	1,138	7.5
Coke	7,529	D	31	0.4	I	757	11.2
Metals and products	18,528	D	975	5.0	D	112	0.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,626	D	6,214	23.2	D	137	0.7
Waste and scrap materials	14,151	D	1,312	8.5	I	485	3.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,792	D	2,624	18.2	D	669	5.4
All other carloads	45,640	D	3,546	7.2	D	86	0.2
LCL traffic	256	D	284	52.6	I	6	2.4
Total Cars Loaded	459,663	D	13,049	2.8	I	18,702	4.2
Corresponding week of 1979	472,712						

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	4,814,772	4,552,322	I 5.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
10 weeks cumulative	171.5	153.6	I 11.7
Week ended March 15	18.9	17.8	I 6.4
11 weeks cumulative	190.4	171.3	I 11.1

#

AARt-032080